



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Astrid Glynn, MassDOT Rail & Transit Administrator



To: MassDOT Board

From: Astrid Glynn, Rail and Transit Administrator

Re: Recent Activities

Date: February 8, 2019

Transit:

RTA Task Force: The Task Force on Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Performance and Funding created by the FY19 Budget continues to meet. It has held 15 meetings and has had presentations on performance metrics, best practices, economic development, human service transportation, fare policy, and funding. After extensive discussion the Task Force voted tentative approval of 24 recommendations largely focused on best practices, and 6 actions to be taken to implement performance measures and increase data driven decision making. Deliberations on funding and other issues are continuing.

FTA Review: Notwithstanding the federal shutdown, MassDOT expects FTA's State Management Review (SMR) of MassDOT to be held this summer as previously advised. In preparation for this review, MassDOT transit staff are reviewing transit files and collecting records from divisions that provide assistance to the transit program.

Rail

Greenfield Pilot: MassDOT continues to work with Amtrak to prepare for the planned pilot that will test the viability of service from Greenfield to Springfield and New Haven with connections to New York City. Amtrak has started crew training and is currently finalizing the schedule so that it can be submitted to FRA for review.

Capital Projects: Work continues on the Knowledge Corridor, the Berkshire Line, the Middleboro Secondary, the Cape Main, and the Framingham Secondary. On the Knowledge Corridor, 6 bridges and 7 culverts are being repaired. On the Framingham Secondary work is ongoing to replace 3 bridges and 1 culvert. On the Middleboro Subdivision 16 miles of continuously welded rail is replacing jointed rail. On the Cape Main, 1 bridge is being replaced. Bids have been opened for a tie replacement project on the Berkshire line.

South Coast Rail Early Actions: As part of the Early Action work planned for FY19, a contract to replace, repair, or refurbish some 80 culverts is being presented to the Capital Planning Committee and Board in February.

Safety: MassDOT Rail staff attended a PTC and Safety meeting convened by FRA in Washington DC on February 6. FRA is promoting coordination between a full range of stakeholders and broad awareness of the agency's approach to PTC implementation and safety planning. MassDOT has received a conditional limited operations PTC exemption from FRA for the Knowledge Corridor. Other MassDOT-owned lines that might require PTC are included in the MBTA's PTC implementation plans.. FRA anticipates hosting 5 more such meetings over the next two years "to promote information-sharing, best practices, and collaboration between FRA and industry."